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**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number		10/618,353
Filing Date		July 11, 2003
First Named Inventor		Jean-Marie Mathias
Art Unit		
Examiner Name		
Attorney Docket Number		F-5932
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to a Technology Center (TC) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify below):
Remarks Other Enclosures: - PTO-1449 (8 Pages) - PTO/SB/08A (4 Pages) - Cited Foreign References - Return Postcard		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual	Andrew G. Kofronyets
Signature	<i>Andrew G. Kofronyets</i>
Date	January 20, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV 321711715 US

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as required in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date: January 20, 2004 Express Mail			
Typed or printed	Armando Ching		
Signature	<i>Armando Ching</i>	Date	January 20, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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PATENT

Attorney Docket No. F-5932

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
Jean-Marie Mathias

Serial No.: 10/618,353

Filed: July 11, 2003

Examiner:

Art Unit:

For: Needle Protector

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

"Express Mail" Mailing Label: EV321711715US

Date of Deposit: January 20, 2004

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NAME: Armando Ching
(TYPED OR PRINTED)

SIGNATURE: *Armando Ching*

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, as revised on February 4, 1992, 1135 OG 23-24, Applicants hereby call the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application.

No inference should be drawn that any apparatus disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. Also, the citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in

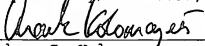
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the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicants also respectfully reserve the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the present patent application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, it is believed that no fee under 37 CFR 1.97(c) is required. If it is determined that a fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge our Deposit Account, No. 50/1039.

Respectfully submitted,


Andrew G. Kolomayets
Registration No. 33,723

COOK, ALEX, MCFARRON, MANZO,
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.
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(312) 236-8500



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	4
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Complete if Known

Application Number	10/618,353
Filing Date	July 11, 2003
First Named Inventor	Jean-Marie Mathias
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	F-5932

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No	U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS			
		Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	1	US 4,693,708	09-15-1987	Wanderer et al.	
	2	US 4,927,415	05-22-1990	Brodsky	
	3	US 4,943,283	07-24-1990	Hogan	
	4	US 5,067,490	11-26-1991	Haber	
	5	US 5,086,780	02-11-1992	Schmitt	
	6	US 5,120,320	06-09-1992	Fayngold	
	7	US 5,171,231	12-15-1992	Heiliger	
	8	US 5,176,650	01-05-1993	Haining	
	9	US 5,188,119	02-23-1993	Sunderland	
	10	US 5,192,275	03-09-1993	Burns	
	11	US 5,197,956	03-30-1993	Brizuela	
	12	US RE 34,223	04-13-1993	Bonaldo	
	13	US 5,242,417	09-07-1993	Paudler	
	14	US 5,290,264	03-01-1994	Utterberg	
	15	US 5,312,359	05-17-1994	Wallace	
	16	US D353,456	12-13-1994	Fayngold et al.	
	17	US 5,382,240	01-17-1995	Lam	
	18	US 5,401,250	03-28-1995	Shields	
	19	US 5,429,612	07-04-1995	Berthier	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature	/Catherine Witczak/ (11/28/2008)
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Date Considered

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. *Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). *See Kinds Codes and Classifications section for more information regarding classification codes. *If applicant is Japanese Patent Office, indicate the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent mark here. *Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard St. 16 if possible. *Applicant to place a check mark here if English language.

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Sheet **2** of **4**

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First Named Inventor	Jean-Marie Mathias
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Attorney Docket Number	F-5932

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
	20	US- 5,429,613		07-04-1995	D'Amico	
	21	US- 5,495,855		03-05-1996	Dudar et al.	
	22	US- 5,498,241		03-12-1996	Fabozzi	
	23	US- 5,501,672		03-26-1996	Firth et al.	
	24	US- 5,554,130		09-10-1996	McDonald et al.	
	25	US- 5,562,636		10-08-1996	Utterberg	
	26	US- 5,562,637		10-08-1996	Utterberg	
	27	US- 5,643,220		07-01-1997	Cosme	
	28	US- 5,672,160		09-30-1997	Osterlind et al.	
	29	US- 5,672,161		09-30-1997	Allen et al.	
	30	US- 5,681,295		10-28-1997	Gyure et al.	
	31	US- 5,693,022		12-02-1997	Haynes	
	32	US- 5,704,917		01-06-1998	Utterberg	
	33	US- 5,704,920		01-06-1998	Gyure et al.	
	34	US- 5,704,924		01-06-1998	Utterberg et al.	
	35	US- 5,735,827		04-07-1998	Adwers	
	36	US- 5,746,718		05-05-1998	Steyn	
	37	US- 5,772,638		06-30-1998	Utterberg et al.	
	38	US- 5,795,339		08-18-1998	Erskine	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ²	Number+Kind Code ³ (if known)			

Examiner Signature	/Catherine Witzak/ (11/28/2008)	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

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Sheet	3	of	4
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Application Number	10/618,353
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First Named Inventor	Jean-Marie Mathias
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Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	F-5932

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	39	US 5,800,400	09-01-1998	Hogan	
	39	US 5,810,775	09-22-1998	Shaw	
	40	US 5,817,064	10-06-1998	DeMarco et al.	
	41	US 5,846,227	12-08-1998	Osterlind	
	42	US 5,851,196	12-22-1998	Arnett	
	43	US 5,891,098	04-06-1999	Huang	
	44	US 5,891,099	04-06-1999	Nakajima et al.	
	45	US 5,897,508	04-27-1999	Konrad	
	46	US 5,899,886	05-04-1999	Cosme	
	47	US 5,951,523	09-14-1999	Osterlind et al.	
	48	US 6,013,059	01-11-2000	Jacobs	
	49	US 6,042,570	03-28-2000	Bell et al.	
	50	US 6,093,170	07-25-2000	Hsu et al.	
	51	US 6,120,482	09-19-2000	Szabo	
	52	US 6,165,157	12-26-2000	Dillon et al.	
	53	US 6,193,694	02-27-2001	Bell	
	54	US 6,200,294	03-13-2001	Liu	
	55	US 6,235,005	05-22-2001	Chang et al.	
	56	US 6,235,006	05-22-2001	Dillon et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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Examiner Signature	/Catherine Witczak/ (11/28/2008)
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Date
Considered

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Sheet	4	of	4
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	<u>Attorney Docket No.</u> F-5932		<u>Serial No.</u> 10/618,353
	<u>Applicants</u> Jean-Marie Mathias		
	<u>Filing Date</u> July 11, 2003	<u>Group</u>	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	2,857,912	10/28/58	Feinstone et al.			10/27/55
	3,323,523	06/06/67	Scislowicz et al.			11/18/64
	3,568,673	03/09/71	Cowley			11/04/68
	3,572,334	03/23/71	Petterson			11/27/68
	3,595,230	07/27/71	Suyeoka et al.			07/25/68
	3,610,240	10/05/71	Harautuneian			06/13/67
	RE 27,797	10/30/73	Sorenson et al.			06/08/66
	3,910,272	10/07/75	Forberg			11/15/73
	4,068,659	01/17/78	Moorehead			07/12/76
	4,170,993	10/16/79	Alvarez			03/13/78
	4,329,989	05/18/82	Dallons et al.			02/23/81
	4,417,887	11/29/83	Koshi			09/28/82
	4,425,120	01/10/84	Sampson et al.			04/15/82
	4,573,976	03/04/86	Sampson et al.			05/24/84
	4,631,057	12/23/86	Mitchell			12/17/8

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANS- LATION
	729,419	03/08/66	Canada			Y
	2 263 789	03/13/74	France			N
	0 265 159 A2	04/27/88	EPO			Y
	WO 90/03196	04/05/90	PCT			Y
	0 353 916 A1	07/02/90	EPO			Y

/Catherine Witczak/ (11/28/2008)

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT	<u>Attorney Docket No.</u> F-5932	<u>Serial No.</u> 10/618,353
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	<u>Filing Date</u> July 11, 2003	<u>Group</u>

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	4,631,058	12/23/86	Raines			06/24/85
	4,643,722	02/17/87	Smith, Jr.			06/20/85
	4,664,654	05/12/87	Strauss			03/07/86
	4,676,783	06/30/87	Jagger et al.			09/03/85
	4,731,059	03/15/88	Wanderer et al.			10/14/86
	4,735,618	04/05/88	Hagen			
	4,737,143	04/12/88	Russell			05/12/86
	4,747,836	05/31/88	Luther			07/17/87
	4,790,828	12/13/88	Dombrowski et al.			08/07/87
	4,820,282	04/11/89	Hogan			09/29/87
	4,840,613	06/1989	Balbierz			
	4,840,619	06/20/89	Hughes			05/26/88
	4,842,587	06/27/89	Poncy			07/15/87
	4,867,172	09/19/89	Haber et al.			
	4,874,383	10/17/89	McNaughton			12/08/87
	4,888,001	12/19/89	Schoenberg			06/01/88

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANS- LATION
	0 425 448 A2	02/05/91	EPO			Y
	0 459 953 A1	04/12/91	EPO			Y
	0 475 857 A1	03/18/92	EPO			N
	WO 92/11885	07/23/92	PCT			Y
	WO 95/24232	09/14/95	PCT			Y

/Catherine Witczak/ (11/28/2008)

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	4,917,243	04/17/90	Abrams et al.			08/16/88
	4,923,445	05/08/90	Ryan			07/27/88
	4,927,019	05/22/90	Haber et al.			06/12/89
	4,929,241	05/29/90	Kulli			
	4,932,940	06/12/90	Walker et al.			06/06/88
	4,935,011	06/19/90	Hogan			07/20/88
	4,935,012	06/19/90	Magre et al.			06/10/88
	4,941,881	07/17/90	Masters et al.			08/23/89
	4,943,284	07/24/90	Erlich			09/06/88
	4,946,447	08/07/90	Hardcastle et al.			02/14/89
	4,994,046	02/19/91	Wesson et al.			12/22/89
	5,013,305	05/07/91	Opie et al.			
	5,030,212	07/09/91	Rose			07/30/90
	5,061,250	10/29/91	Shields			08/28/90
	5,069,341	12/03/91	Barbieri et al.			04/22/91
	5,085,639	02/04/92	Ryan			10/04/89

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EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANS- LATION
	EP 0 664 139 B1	07/26/95	EPO			Y
	EP 0 830 871 B1	03/25/98	EPO			Y
	WO 99/12594 B1	09/11/98	PCT			Y
	WO 98/58584	12/30/98	PCT			

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT	<u>Attorney Docket No.</u> F-5932	<u>Serial No.</u> 10/618,353
	<u>Applicants</u> Jean-Marie Mathias	
	<u>Filing Date</u> July 11, 2003	<u>Group</u>

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DATE CONSIDERED

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